



Marianne with her son Nicholas at the Rolling Stones' Hyde Park concert in 1969

to this day is drawn to water, and rivers in particular, having grown up close to the Thames.

Her parents divorced when she was six, but her father, Major Glynn Faithfull, a military officer, had a keen amateur interest in archaeology and Roman Britain.

'My father was a very down-to-earth man, and he would take me on archaeology digs all over the south of England, including one very memorable trip to Brading Villa on the Isle of Wight. I was given a toothbrush and a little sieve, and shown how to clean things very carefully. At the end of the day, we slept in a tent in sleeping bags in a field. My father wouldn't have dreamt of staying in a hotel. It was fabulous, and I loved every minute of it.'

Life with her mother, Eva, the Baroness Erisso, who had close links to the Hapsburg dynasty in Vienna, was rather different. Elegant and poised, she danced with the Max Reinhardt Company. She made her own clothes, and nurtured her only daughter's love of performance with intoxicating trips to London to see the ballet and opera and art exhibitions.

'I had ballet lessons and all of that, and it never occurred to me not to perform,' says Marianne, 'even though I did have stage fright; I would battle on, and go on anyway.'

So did her mother object to her chosen

career as a folk singer and then pop star?

'My mother didn't really have anything to say about it; although she would have liked me to go to university. And now, when I look back, I can see that I would also have liked to go to university.'

**M**arianne is very smart, and it is widely documented that she introduced Jagger to literature. Indeed, she tells me she wanted to study English, history and comparative religion at Cambridge.

In fact, talking about university is the only time during the interview that I detect a note of regret. Who knows what would have happened if she had chosen a life of academia over rock'n'roll?

Back in 2007, she talked about the end of her last relationship, and declared she would still like to fall in love again. So, has she found a new love?

'No, I haven't, and I don't think I will, because I know too much about it, and I see through it all.'

'I don't think I could con myself into falling in love again, because I do think it is a con. When you're young, it is just wanting to breed.'

That sounds terribly negative. What about companionship?

'I've had a wonderful life with all my lovers, and husbands. There is only one

I didn't like, and that was my last husband, Giorgio Della Terza. He was American, and he was a nightmare. Now I pretend it never happened.

'But who knows? I would like to fall in love again; I just think it is unlikely. Having said that, I was reading the *Daily Mail* today for the gossip – I know, it's very low-brow – and my stars said I was about to fall in love. Well, I am having dinner with my first husband, John Dunbar tonight. We first met on Valentine's Day, 1963, at a ball at Cambridge, and tonight we are going for a beautiful Valentine's dinner.'

Then suddenly her voice rises and cracks with emotion.

'I love John. We are very close now. You can't throw away love. I used to think I could, but you can't. When I was young, I thought I needed to find more love – I thought I was invincible.'

Marianne may feel a little less invincible than during her gilded youth, but if her new album's anything to go by, she's all the better for it.

Indeed, perhaps we're all better off with a few years under our belt. ◆

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